[Translation]

Power Generation by Naphtha based Project

*231. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a target of 8000 M.W. power generation has been fixed for naphtha based projects;

(b) if so, whether the other developed and developing countries of the world are promoting naphtha based power projects in less number;

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have worked out the cost of power generated through the naphtha based projects; and

(e) if so, the extent to which it is more than the cost of power generated through thermal, hydel and atomic power projects and the average cost estimated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) A limited capacity of 12,000 MW based on liquid fuel including naphtha has been fixed for the country after detailed consultation with Planning Commission. CEA and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Internationally naptha is not a preferred fuel for power plants; in India naphtha based plants are proposed to be set as a one time measure to meet the deficit in the power generation capacity in the short run.

(d) and (e) The tariff for naphtha based power projects will vary depending upon the location, cost of fuel, mode of operation ambient temperature, among other factors. However, the higher fule cost is somewhat compensated by the higher plant efficiency compared to coal based plants and the relatively lower capital costs. Naptha based plants will also have the advantage of a shorter gestation period. It is difficult to compare naphtha based tariffs with the tariffs applicable for hydel and atomic power plants as the tariff schedule would depend on the location, cost of fuel, gestation period of the project among other factors.

Purchase of Power from Pakistan

*232. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is going to purchase 3000 M.W. of power from Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether any agreement to this effect has been signed during the visit of Indian team of experts;

(c) whether any SAARC power grid is being set up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) A proposal for the sale of power from Pakistan to India was received from Indian Embassy. Washington. The proposal is under preliminary stage of assessment and scrutiny. A team of experts have to identify the points for transfer of power, voltage level mode of interconnection and the quantum of power to be transferred. Thereafter a feasibility study would be commissioned to examine the technical financial and economic viability of the investments required to establish the transmission link.

(b) No Indian team of experts has visited Pakistan.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[English]

Demand for Wagons

*233. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Indian Railways are facing slack demand for wagons even during the peak months of February-March, 1997;

(b) if so, the name of worst sufferer railway zone;

(c) the extent to which their target of carrying freight fell short between April, 1996 to January, 1997;

(d) the main reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the tonnage target set for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) South Eastern Railway.

(c) On South Eastern Railway freight loading target between April '96 to January '97 was 135.90 million tonnes. Against this actual loading during this period was 133.54 million tonnes resulting in a shortfall of -2.36 million tonnes.

(d) Loading on South Eastern Railway was mainly less because of less offer of raw-materials to and finished products from steel plants and less offer of iron-ore traffic for export.

(e) To achieve the target for 1997-98, close liaison with users and concerned Ministries is being maintained for maximum movement of traffic by rail. Close monitoring is being done right from Field level to Railway Board level for smooth and faster movement of rail traffic.

Harnessing of Wind and Solar Energy

*234. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether wind and solar energy are projected to be harnessed with a view to substantially diversifying and conserving the conventional energy resources;

(b) the extent to which wind and solar-power have been harnessed to generate electricity so far and the target fixed in this regard for the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether Asia's largest solar plant project to be set up at Kalyanpur (near Aligarh) has flopped and if so, in what circumstances and at what stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

(b) Significant progress has been made towards harnessing of wind and solar energy. A wind power capacity of about 900 MW and solar photovoltaic projects aggregating to 28 MW capacity were installed up to 31.3.97, in different parts of the country. The solar photovoltaic capacity primarily comprises stand-alone systems for lighting, pumping, telecommunication etc. and over 700 MW of grid-connected solar projects.

The following targets for wind and solar energy systems have been proposed for the 9th Five Year Plan :

(i)	Wind Power	2000 MW
(ii)	Solar Photovoltaic Systems (stand-alone)	100 MW
(iii)	Solar Power Projects (grid-connected)	150 MW

(c) No, Sir. The 100 KW Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant is providing domestic lighting to 475 households, electricity for 65 street lights and 15 irrigation pumpsets in Kayanpur village. Barring a few problems, the 75 KW stand-alone portion of the Plant has by and large been functioning satisfactorily. The 25 KW grid-connected portion is under trials. Very useful experience has been gained from this plant in manufacture. Installation and operation of high voltage solar photovoltaic systems.

Smuggling of Genetic Resources from India

*235. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of large scale smuggling of India's genetic resources and then patenting them abroad have come to the notice of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No complaint has been received; genetic resources in the public domain are not patentable.

(b) A national legislation to regulate access to genetic materials is under formulation.

[Translation]

Dak Adalats

*236. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to organise 'Dak Adalats' in the country;

(b) if so, the details of subjects which are proposed to be handled by these adalats; and

(c) the time by which these 'Adalatas' are likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Salient Features of 'Dak Adalats' Scheme

In order to have greater interface with the public including postal pensioners and to settle public complaints relating to the postal services efficiently, the Department of Post, *inter-alia* has been taking various steps from time to time to strengthen the grievane machinery at different levels i.e. at Headquarters, Circle, Regional and Divisional levels. One of the important initiatives taken by the Department in this direction was the introduction of 'Dak Adalats' at all the circle Headquarters in December, 1990. The complaints handled by these 'Dak Adalats' relate to Counter services, Savings Banks, Money Orders, Parcels, Value Payable, Postal Life Insurance, Speed Post and